

DATE: February 17, 2012

RE: Comments re Proposed Kennecott Haul Road - CR 595

TO: MI Department of Environmental Quality, 420 5th St., Gwinn MI 49841

FROM: Margaret Comfort, HC-1 Box 20, Michigamme MI 49861

To Whom It May Concern,

I object to the adoption of the proposed County Road 595 for the following reasons:

***It is a Kennecott Haul Road, NOT a county road.*** CR 595 is, in essence, no different than the "Woodlands Road". Kennecott is trying to pull the wool over your eyes. They are, once again, trying to slip a mickey on the MI DEQ.

In March 2010, the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) noted, upon its review of the Woodlands Rd. application, that "if the Road is required to connect the mine with the mill and tailings disposal facility at Humboldt, ***THESE ACTIONS SHOULD BE EVALUATED UNDER ONE PROJECT... our regulations require a HOLISTIC VIEW of the project...the PUBLIC and the process are best served by evaluating projects IN THEIR ENTIRETY.***

Kennecott tweaked and slipped by the Feds. Are they going to slip by YOU?

They may have followed the "letter of the Law"; but they are most certainly not following the "Spirit of the Law". Do you see that? Does it matter to you?

So, what did Kennecott do? They withdrew their application (after criticism and concerns from EPA, USACE, USFWS) and dumped the "hot potato" in the lap of Marquette County and, more specifically, the MQT Co. Road Commission.

What are they doing? Trying to hide a "wolf in sheep's clothing?" Trying to get somebody else to do their "dirty work" for them? And, potentially, even get the taxpayer to foot the bill?

They did not, nor did they ever intend to, obtain a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act; as would be required under federal law. They have managed, thus far, to conveniently by-pass that as well. Why does the DEQ persist in thinking that this "Eagle Project" only consists of the 120 acres within the fencing? No, "the mine" encompasses and will adversely impact far more than that!

They have a history of not laying all their cards out on the table. They do things "piece-meal" and, thus, are less likely to attract attention that way. First it was the mine, then the road- railway north of Marquette, then the mill? then the road to connect the mine with the mill? What next???

Any one can see that, once a road is built, it'll make it easier for them to explore and, potentially, extract. Since when is the MI DEQ in the business of making it easier for a corporation to do business? ***Aren't you supposed to be working for ME (the public), not them?***

The USACE also recommended, two years ago now, that you request more information from Kennecott re their future mining projects and any projected plans for this proposed road. ***Did you do that yet?***

Know that they are snooping around my neighborhood - from Humboldt to Michigamme.

Every time I ask the MQT Co. Road Commission to show me their 5-year or 10-year plans regarding construction of this so-called "county" road, they have been unable to produce any documents. ***I have asked them five times.*** I have yet to receive anything. It doesn't exist. They have been pressured by the MQT Co. Board to "create", to "manufacture" such a need for CR 595. ***There is NO PURPOSE for this road, other than to serve as a Kennecott Haul Road.***

Kennecott ***already has*** a "Haul Road"; as do the logging companies. Kennecott vehicles and trucks are ALREADY going on the Triple AAA, to the 510, to the 550 and then through Marquette. Why not have them follow that same route, but upgrade it, by requiring dedicated lanes and/or specific times and conditions for transport? Another potential option could be a railroad.

As our former Congressman, Bart Stupak, wisely noted, they are going to "make a mess up there". They are going to pollute, destroy wetlands, destroy habitat, destroy migration paths, destroy Nature and its Serenity and its Right to Exist - all in the name of "profit". Profit for ***what***, I ask you?

Reject proposed County Road 595.

Sincerely,

Margaret Comfort